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- 9.—*The Portrait of a Christian Gentleman.—Memoir of Patrick Fraser Tytler, Author of the "History of Scotland."* By his Friend, the REV. JOHN W. BURGON, M. A., Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. Second Edition. London: John Murray. 1859. 12mo. pp. xii. and 368.

THE literary merits of this Memoir are not of a high order, but the life which it commemorates was so pure and noble, that it would be worthy of study even in a much more imperfect record. Patrick Fraser Tytler was neither a great man nor a very eminent historian, and his chief claim to remembrance arises from the integrity of his character, his humble piety, and his fidelity in all the relations of life. He was born in Edinburgh on the 30th of August, 1791, and was the youngest son of Lord Woodhouselee, a distinguished Scotch jurist, and grandson of William Tytler, a scarcely less distinguished Scotch historian. His preparatory studies were pursued in his native country, and at the age of seventeen he was sent to England to complete his education under the care of a clergyman of the Church of England. Here he soon gave evidence of a taste for historical studies, devoting all his spare time to English reading, and particularly History. "What do you think of History, my dear Sandie?" he says in a letter to his brother. "To me it seems to be the noblest of all studies. To say that it is entertaining, is its least praise. It is the school of statesmen and warriors; and the pleasure next to living in the times, and being a witness to the actions of these, is that of reading their life and actions." After leaving school he studied law, and in July, 1813, he was admitted into the Faculty of Advocates. For several years he pursued his profession with considerable zeal; but it did not prove very lucrative, and gradually his thoughts became more and more directed toward literary avocations. His first work was an "Historical and Critical Essay on the Life of Crichton," which was written in the early part of 1817, and was afterward expanded into a "Life of James Crichton of Cluny, commonly called the Admirable Crichton," which was published in 1819, when he was in his twenty-eighth year. In March, 1826, he was married; and two years later he published the first volume of his *History of Scotland*, a work of considerable research and ability, extending to nine volumes, the last of which was not published until 1843. In the early part of 1835, his wife, who appears to have been a woman of many admirable qualities, died. Tytler's grief was deep and sincere; yet he prosecuted his literary labors with undiminished zeal. Beside the works already mentioned, his principal publications were the *Lives of Scottish Worthies*, in Murray's Family Library; a *Life of*

Sir Walter Raleigh, and a Life of Henry VIII., in the Edinburgh Cabinet Library; an Historical Dissertation on the Progress of Discovery in America; and two volumes of unpublished letters illustrative of the history of England under Edward VI. and Mary. He also published at different times several minor historical works and essays. On the 12th of August, 1845, he was again married. But his new experience of wedded life was not destined to be of long continuance. His health was rapidly failing, and on the 24th of December, 1849, death terminated his sufferings.

Such, in meagre outline, was Tytler's life. It has little of stirring incident, and little breadth of interest. But everywhere we see evidence that he possessed in large measure the graces of character which become a Christian gentleman. His works will scarcely maintain a permanent place in English literature; and it is on a knowledge of his manly virtues that whatever reputation he may possess must rest. Throughout his career we see nothing that is not devoted, generous, and self-sacrificing, and the lives of few men of letters have been characterized by greater sweetness of temper, or a more sincere and humble piety. Mr. Burgon's narrative is often feeble, and even puerile; but his extracts from his friend's letters and diaries are, with few exceptions, replete with interest and instruction.

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10. — *A Manual of Latin Prosody.* By WILLIAM RAMSAY, M. A., Trinity College, Cambridge, Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow. Second Edition. London and Glasgow: Richard Griffin & Co., Publishers to the University of Glasgow. 1859. 8vo. pp. 320.

THE superficial way in which Prosody is commonly taught, and the mechanical and unscientific character of works on the subject, have rather brought the study into disrepute. Professor Ramsay's work, while it gives some interesting results, does not meet the wants of the times. Two things in the plan and execution of his *Manual* are particularly objectionable.

1. He excludes the Comic Dramatists, Plautus and Terence, "and this," to use his own words, "for the best possible reason: we are still ignorant of the laws by which their verse is regulated, if indeed they did think it necessary to confine themselves within the limits of any well-defined rules. Notwithstanding the labors of such men as Erasmus, Scaliger, Faber, Hare, Bentley, Hermann, and a host of others, the Latin comic metres are involved in the deepest obscurity, and the